

# The National Day on Writing

## The National Gallery of Writing

### What is the National Gallery of Writing?



The National Gallery of Writing will include *three types of display spaces* where writing can be found:

- 1. The Gallery of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)** represents a broad mosaic of writing hosted by the National Council of Teachers of English.
- 2. The Gallery of National Partners** includes writing that corresponds to a theme or purpose identified by one of the National Partners participating in this initiative.

- 3. The Gallery of Local Partners** includes works from writers in a classroom, school, club, workplace, city, or other local entity.

The National Gallery of Writing will open for submissions starting **April 23, 2009**, and will be open for viewing/reading on the National Day on Writing (**October 20, 2009**). The Gallery will provide a lively reading experience and an opportunity for writers to share their craft and find a broad and diverse audience. And everyone who visits the Gallery of NCTE will find useful tips and guidelines for writers from the National Council of Teachers of English.

### What is a Local Partner and a Local Partner Gallery?

Local partners can be any group, including a family, a few good friends, a club or church group, a class, a school, a workplace group, or an entire city, who wants to see their work collected together inside the National Gallery. Every local partner needs one key person: a Curator who applies for local partner status and agrees to review all work submitted before it is published.

To start a local gallery, visit [www.galleryofwriting.org](http://www.galleryofwriting.org).

### Why should someone start a Local Partner Gallery?

For many good reasons:

- It is a way to help your group think more deeply about how, why, when, and where they write, and share ideas or information that is important to them.
- It can evoke pride, or at least a strong bond, as you see what others post to your Local Gallery.
- It can help you sharpen your own thinking about writing and improve as a writer.
- It can broaden your awareness of the perceptions and talents of others—discoveries that are often hidden in everyday interactions and conversations.

For more information, visit [www.galleryofwriting.org](http://www.galleryofwriting.org).



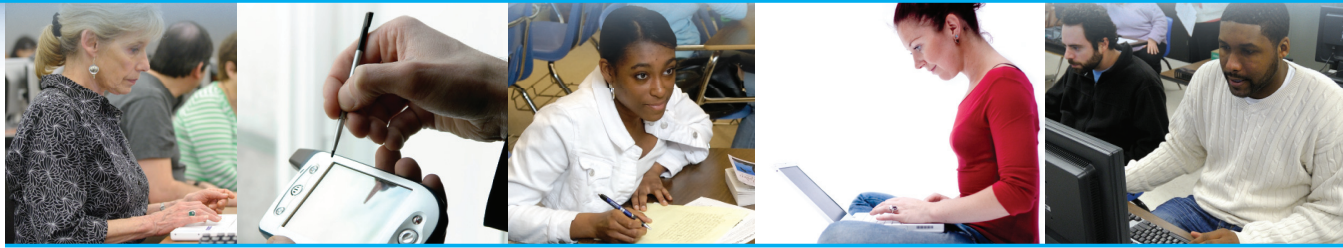
America's writing will be front and center on  
**October 20, 2009**

<http://www.galleryofwriting.org>

*Contribute Your Writing Today!*







## Why have a National Day on Writing?

Let's imagine America writing.

Let's imagine essayists and auditors, poets and nurses, tweeters and technicians, blogging beauticians, church bulletin scribes, advocates and analysts, authoring.

Let's imagine memoirs and memos, rants and remembrances, oral histories, letters to the future, postcards from the past, profiles profane and sacred, instructions, directions, reflections, retorts, factual and fancied.

Let's imagine a living American gallery of writing checked with salons, fitted by school or site, by genre or by identity, but most importantly by you, salons in which a homeless man's story hangs next to the finance major's wedding vows.

Let's imagine school kids linked to college students, teachers to professors, and all to city halls, shelters, board rooms, all linked by writing.

Let's gather writers who'd never thought themselves that: mothers, bus drivers, fathers, and veterans. Let's have sharings, coffees, contests silly and celebratory, so that the national gallery of writing has myriad outposts, local and physical. Let's open our writing centers to our communities.

Let's imagine October 20 and all this embodied in a National Day on Writing, a day when we cut the digital rope on our Gallery, when the Norman Mailer Writers Colony gives creative nonfiction awards to high school and college writers in a gala ceremony sponsored by famed New York writers, students whose work has been supported and selected by NCTE members. Actually, that day is planned. What's needed to make it happen is you. Please help.

—Doug Hesse, *National Council of Teachers of English member, former chair of the Conference on College Composition and Communication, and director of Denver University's University Writing Program*

America's writing will be front and center on **October 20, 2009—the National Day on Writing**. On that day, writers from every walk of life will pause to share their work. Communities across the nation are planning events to celebrate local writing, and NCTE will open the National Gallery of Writing for all to appreciate the rich variety of work on display. A celebratory gala will be hosted by the *New Yorker* magazine in Manhattan to mark the National Day on Writing and to honor winners of the Norman Mailer High School and College Writing Awards.

## How can writers contribute to the Gallery?

Writers are eligible to submit one composition (or a link to a composition already posted on the Internet) to the National Gallery. When writers first visit the site, they will have the option of choosing where to submit their work: the Gallery of NCTE, the Gallery of National Partners, or the Gallery of Local Partners. Galleries are searchable by name, theme, curator's name, location, etc.

Once writers have selected a destination site, they'll be asked to sign a permission waiver to have work appear in the gallery (minors will need a parent's/guardian's permission), and will answer a few questions about themselves and the work they are submitting (they can choose to hide answers from readers and the search engine or share them openly). Writing will then be reviewed to ensure that it meets the guidelines of the Gallery Host and either posted to the chosen gallery or referred to the Gallery of the National Council of Teachers of English. Writers will be notified once the submission has cleared review.

To submit writing, visit [www.galleryofwriting.org](http://www.galleryofwriting.org).

## Who will be featured in the National Gallery?

The short answer: Everyone! People are writing like never before—in every walk of life, in every kind of work, and at every age. We invite everyone—teachers and students, parents and grandparents, legislators, service and industrial workers, managers, business owners, retirees, and others—to join in this celebration of writing by submitting a piece that matters most to them.



## What kind of writing will I find there?

We welcome composition in all of its forms, from textual to audio and video pieces. The only criterion is that it is a piece that matters to you. Among the entry types you can submit are:

- Email
- Letter
- Journal entry
- Report
- Electronic presentation
- Blog post
- Documentary clip
- Poetry reading
- How-to directions
- Short story
- Memo

For more information on NCTE's National Day on Writing, visit [www.ncte.org/action/dayonwriting](http://www.ncte.org/action/dayonwriting).

To submit writing or start a Gallery, visit [www.galleryofwriting.org](http://www.galleryofwriting.org).